

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hastings et al.

Application Serial No.: 09/466,778

Filed: December 20, 1999

For: **Novel Hyaluronan-Binding
Proteins and Encoding Genes**

Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: Einsmann, J.

Attorney Docket No.: PF487

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PROVISIONAL ELECTION
WITH TRAVERSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.143**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 21, 2000 please consider the following amendments, traversal, provisional election, and remarks. Applicants submit concurrently herewith: (a) a Petition for an Extension of Time for response of five months up to and including February 21, 2001, accompanied by the appropriate fee; (b) a Fee Transmittal Sheet, accompanied by the appropriate fee; and (c) an Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 with a Form PTO/SB/08 and copies of references AA-AC.

Prior to examining the captioned application, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 2-12, and 14-16, without prejudice, and add the following new claims.

-- 23. (New) An isolated protein comprising amino acid residues 1 to 353 of SEQ ID NO:11.

A 24. (New) The protein of claim 23 which comprises a heterologous polypeptide sequence.

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02 FC:133 774.00 CH
03 FC:162 430.00 CH